

### **Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS)**

BBS supported Senate Bill 33 (Chapter 26/2009), which modifies educational requirements for Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT); it is in the process of being implemented. The following new content for MFT education could help to improve treatment for veterans:

1. Effects of trauma;
2. Disaster and trauma response;
3. Treatment of individuals, couples, families and children involving trauma and abuse, dysfunctions and healthy functioning, health promotion and illness prevention;
4. Financial and social stress;
5. Connecting clients with resources that deliver quality services and support;
6. Resilience, including the personal and community qualities that enable persons to cope with adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats or other stresses; and
7. Substance use disorders, co-occurring disorders and addiction.

### **California Community Colleges (CCC)**

The CCC is working toward multiple initiatives for veterans:

1. Zellerbach grant proposal: If funded, the Zellerbach grant will train faculty and staff to increase their awareness of mental health issues and needs of transition age student-veterans.
2. Veterans Resource Center (VRC):

The High Tech Center Training Unit (HTCTU) at De Anza College, in coordination with the Chancellor's Office, is proposing a VRC on approximately twelve community college campuses, patterned after the VRC at Butte College. The VRC project grows from a proven model that provides tangible services for veteran students as they navigate the academic and civilian worlds.

The HTCTU will: conduct a survey of services the CCCs currently provide to student-veterans; identify approximately 12 VRC project sites; track the number of student-veteran using the VRCs, the referrals to on- and off-campus resources, and the trainings provided through the HTCTU.

### **California State Library (CSL)**

- Extensive research for the *Studies in the News (SITN)* articles is being conducted by the librarian, with a section dedicated to veterans' issues in each bi-monthly publication.
- The Library will expand e-distribution of *SITN* to those who request it.
- The Library will devote an entire issue of *SITN* to veterans.
- The librarian provides research on veterans' issues to DMH and other state employees on a regular basis.

### **Department of Aging (CDA)**

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Veterans with physical, mental health, social service and/or in-home support needs are served in all of the Department of Aging's (CDA's) programs; most services are administered through contracts with California's thirty-three local Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs).

The CDA is working on the following initiatives that include veterans:

1. Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP): Local HICAPs collaborate with the Veterans Administration, National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, and TRICARE (the military health plan) to strengthen outreach efforts at providing veterans with health insurance counseling. Veterans represent 6.5 percent of all HICAP clients.
2. Adult Day Health Care (ADHC): ADHC Centers, certified by CDA, provide health, mental health, rehabilitation and social services to frail older adults and adults with disabilities who are at risk of institutional placement. Veterans with dementia and chronic disabling medical conditions, as well as those with Traumatic Brain Injury, may use ADHC services.
3. Communities Putting Prevention to Work (Chronic Disease Self-Management Grant Program): CDA, in partnership with the state Departments of Public Health and Health Care Services, is seeking \$1,750,000 to expand the availability of the evidence-based Chronic Disease Self-Management Program to a greater number of older Californians. CDA will collaborate with the California VA and the federal VA on grant implementation.

**Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP)**

ADP's Veterans Awareness Initiative (VAI), which addresses co-occurring disorders, involves information collection and dissemination; volunteer recruitment for conducting substance use disorder assessments; training in trauma awareness; and creation of a Web page.

**Department of Developmental Services (DDS)**

DDS is working with the Department of Veterans Affairs to include a link to the Family Resource Centers Network of California Website in the Military Families section.

**Department of Education (CDE)**

The Learning Support and Partnership Division of CDE is proposing to change the Education Code to allow an excused absence from school for children of parents/guardians in the military who are returning home from deployment.

**Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)**

The DHCS California Mental Health Care Management Program (CalMEND) representative participated in the Stand Down for Homeless Veterans in San Diego, as part of the San Diego Society of Health System Pharmacists activities. There is interest

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in involving the Sacramento pharmacists in the Stand Down for Homeless Veterans in Sacramento.

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**Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board**

No response from the Board to message left.

**Office of Administrative Courts**

Currently, the AOC does not address any veteran issues/activities.

At the time of publication, no response had been received from the following departments:

**Department of Rehabilitation**

**Department of Social Services**

**Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development**